

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES



### GAS IS OUT AND ELECTRIC IS IN FOR LEAF BLOWERS AND WEED WHACKERS

The use of gas powered leaf blowers and weed whackers (string trimmers) is prohibited effective July 1, 2024. For more information about these new rules, please visit the City's webpage at [menlopark.gov/zele](http://menlopark.gov/zele).

### SOLID WASTE AND WATER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The City Council approved a rate assistance program to assist those suffering financial hardship. The program runs through June 30, 2025. Qualified households may receive a 20% monthly discount on solidwaste service from Recology San Mateo County and a monthly discount on the fixed meter charge for on water service from Menlo Park Municipal Water. Those already enrolled do not need to submit another application.

To be eligible for this program, households must be enrolled in the PG&E CARE program, which is another discount program that offers a monthly minimum of 20% on gas and electricity. Visit the City's webpage at [menlopark.gov/rateassistance](http://menlopark.gov/rateassistance) for more details about the program.

For households who live in the California Water (Cal Water) service area, its Customer Assistance Program provides financial assistance for qualified households. Visit [calwater.com/cap](http://calwater.com/cap) or email [cap@calwater.com](mailto:cap@calwater.com).

### LAS HERRAMIENTAS A GAS ESTÁN FUERA Y SE PERMITEN SOLO LOS SOPLADORES DE HOJAS Y CORTADORAS DE HILO ELÉCTRICOS

Está prohibido el uso de sopladores de hojas y cortadores de hilo a gasolina a partir del 1 de julio de 2024. Para obtener más información sobre estas nuevas reglas, visite la página web de la Ciudad en [menlopark.gov/zele](http://menlopark.gov/zele).

### PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA TARIFARIA

El Ayuntamiento de Menlo Park aprobó un programa de asistencia tarifaria para ayudar a quienes sufren dificultades financieras. El programa está disponible hasta el 30 de junio de 2025. Los hogares calificados pueden recibir un descuento mensual del 20% en el servicio de residuos sólidos de Recology San Mateo County y un descuento mensual en el cargo del medidor fijo del servicio de agua de Menlo Park Municipal Water. Los hogares ya inscritos no necesitan presentar otra solicitud.

Para ser elegible para este programa, los hogares deben estar inscritos en el programa PG&E CARE, este es otro programa de descuento que ofrece un mínimo mensual del 20% en gas y electricidad. Visite la página web de la ciudad en [menlopark.gov/rateassistance](http://menlopark.gov/rateassistance) para obtener más detalles sobre el programa.

Para los hogares ubicados en el área de servicio de California Water (Cal Water), el programa de Asistencia Tarifaria para Hogares de Bajos Ingresos (CAP, por sus siglas en inglés), ofrece asistencia financiera para hogares calificados. Visite [calwater.com/cap](http://calwater.com/cap) o envíe un correo electrónico [acap@calwater.com](mailto:acap@calwater.com).

### UPCOMING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, November 9  
8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Location to be announced upon appointment confirmation. Space is limited and appointments are required in advance.

Acceptable HHW items include acids/bases, aerosol cans, automotive supplies (car batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluids), cleaning products, fertilizers, pesticides, flammable liquids, fluorescent lights (compact and tubes), paints, inks, and photo chemicals. Radioactive, explosive, medical, and commercial waste is prohibited.

Schedule an appointment online by visiting [smhealth.org/hhw](http://smhealth.org/hhw) or call 650-372-6200.



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### HELPFUL TIPS FOR TREE MAINTENANCE DURING THE WINTER SEASON

As California enters storm season, it is important to conduct proactive tree maintenance to keep trees safe and healthy. Here are some helpful tips to keep in mind:

- Inspect the crown, trunk, and roots of the tree. Look for issues of concern, such as broken branches, cracks in the trunk, soil heaving with recently exposed roots, signs of decay, and change in lean severity.
- Work with an insured, licensed, and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified tree care company. They can assess your trees and provide recommendations for improving tree safety, health, and structure.
- Your arborist should prune to reduce the weight and extension of branches over structures and other targets. Dead, dying, diseased, and dysfunctional branches should also be removed. Dense tree crowns should not be overly thinned, as this weakens the tree and leaves it more prone to storm damage.
- Your arborist should avoid lions-tailing (stripping out the interior branches, leaving only live foliage at the ends of tree branches), which results in heavy foliage growth at the end of long branches. These branches are more prone to breakage during windy weather.
- Your arborist should not top trees. New growth following topping is poorly attached and susceptible to breakage. It also compromises the tree's aesthetics, health, structure, and long-term viability. When heritage trees are subjected to topping, this is considered a violation of the City's heritage tree protection ordinance.
- Do not remove more than 25% of the tree canopy when pruning.
- After exploring all other risk mitigation options, if it is determined that removal of a heritage tree is necessary, then a heritage tree removal permit application is required. Visit [menlopark.gov/trees](http://menlopark.gov/trees) for more information.

To report tree debris in the public right-of-way and concerns with city maintained trees, residents may use the ACT Menlo Park to report and track service requests either through the mobile app or the City website at [menlopark.gov/actmenlopark](http://menlopark.gov/actmenlopark). If a city tree emergency occurs outside of normal work hours and needs immediate attention, residents may call Police dispatch at 650-330-6300.



### COMPOST AND MULCH GIVEAWAY EVENTS

Now until October 31  
8 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Bedwell Bayfront Park  
1600 Marsh Rd.

Does your soil need more nutrients to create a lavish garden? Do you need mulch to reduce the amount of weeds growing and to maintain soil moisture? You are in luck!

The City is piloting a new program to provide residents free compost and mulch at Bedwell Bayfront Park. Please note there is ongoing construction at the entrance of the park on weekdays. The materials will be available in the park until supplies last and are replenished every other Friday until the end of October. Appointments are not required.

The event is self-serve, so please bring a shovel, gloves, and containers to fill. Limit is 64 gallons per Menlo Park resident per week.

### LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS PROGRAM

A free landscape analysis program (\$1,400 value) is offered to commercial and multifamily Menlo Park Municipal Water (MPMW) customers. An irrigation expert will evaluate your site and provide you with a personalized report on how you can improve water efficiency and save on water costs. Limited funding is available per year, and appointments are set up based on a first-come, first-served basis. For non-MPMW customers, check with your water provider for conservation incentives offered to you. Please reach out to [water@menlopark.gov](mailto:water@menlopark.gov) to schedule an audit.

**City of Menlo Park**  
701 Laurel St.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
650-330-6720  
[menlopark.gov/citymanager](http://menlopark.gov/citymanager)

**GARBAGE/RECYCLING SERVICE QUESTIONS**  
Recology San Mateo County

- Visit [recology.com](http://recology.com)
- Call 650-595-3900